

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method of navigating data stored on a data storage device connected to a
2 computer, comprising the steps of:
3 in response to receiving user input, selecting a target object in an information
4 catalog; and
5 providing information about a source from which the target object was derived.

1 2. The method of claim 1, the target object is represented as a node in a tree
2 structure.

1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of providing information further
2 comprises the step of providing transformation information.

1 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the step of providing transformation
2 information further comprises the step of identifying a transformation producing function.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of providing information further
2 comprises the step of providing lineage information.

1 6. The method of claim 5, further comprising the step of maintaining
2 transformation models for use in providing the lineage information.

1 7. An apparatus for navigating data, comprising:
2 a computer having a memory and a data storage device coupled thereto that stores
3 the data;
4 one or more computer programs, performed by the computer, for, in response to
5 receiving user input, selecting a target object in an information catalog and providing
6 information about a source from which the target object was derived.

8. The apparatus of claim 7, the target object is represented as a node in a tree structure.

9. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the means for providing information further comprises the means for providing transformation information.

10. The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the means for providing transformation information further comprises the means for identifying a transformation producing function.

11. The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the means for providing information further comprises the means for providing lineage information.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising the means for maintaining transformation models for use in providing the lineage information.

13. An article of manufacture comprising a program storage medium readable by a computer and embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer to perform method steps for navigating data stored on a data storage device, the method comprising the steps of:

in response to receiving user input, selecting a target object in an information catalog; and

providing information about a source from which the target object was derived.

14. The article of manufacture of claim 13, the target object is represented as a node in a tree structure.

15. The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein the step of providing information further comprises the step of providing transformation information.

1 16. The article of manufacture of claim 15, wherein the step of providing
2 transformation information further comprises the step of identifying a transformation
3 producing function.

1 17. The article of manufacture of claim 13, wherein the step of providing
2 information further comprises the step of providing lineage information.

1 18. The article of manufacture of claim 17, further comprising the step of
2 maintaining transformation models for use in providing the lineage information.

*add
a¹⁶*

09221542-12298
868237-24512250